

Application Serial No. 09/843,390  
Response to Notice of Non-Responsive Amendment  
dated December 31, 2003  
Docket No. 67107

**Remarks**

Applicants note that the Office Action dated May 2, 2003 indicated that the action was FINAL. The status of the Office Action on PAIR, however, is listed as NON-FINAL. Attorney for Applicants tried to contact the Examiner. In the Examiner's absence, Attorney for Applicants spoke with the Examiner's Supervisor and was informed that the Office Action should be treated as NON-FINAL as indicated on PAIR.

**Amendments to the Specification**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.121(b)(3) and 1.125, a Substitute Specification is being submitted herewith. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.125(b), the Applicants state that the Substitute Specification contains no new matter. The Substitute Specification is being submitted in order to comply with the Examiner's request that section headings be added to the specification. According to 37 C.F.R. §1.125(c), both a Marked Up Version of the Substitute Specification and a Clean Version of the Substitute Specification are attached. Since the additions to the specification are sections headings, the additions in the Marked Up Version of the Substitute Specification are indicated by double underlining for clarity. Deletions are indicated by strike through or double brackets.

**Amendments to the Claims**

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating in the Office Action dated May 2, 2003 that claims 1-7 are allowed. After entry of the present amendment, Claims 1-7 remain pending. Claims 8 and 14-18 are cancelled without prejudice. Claims 9-13 were cancelled in a previous amendment.

Claims 2-6 are currently amended. The claim amendments address issues of form only. The amended claims contain no new matter and are of the same scope as the claims that the Examiner has allowed. Claim 2 has been amended to replace "a" with --the-- so claim 2 is in the same form as the other dependent claims. Claims 3 and 5 have been amended to place the alternative expressions in proper Markush

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groups. Claims 4 and 6 have been amended to remove excess verbiage and to improve clarity.

All of the rejected claims have been cancelled, and Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request passage of the application to issuance. If there are any other matters that need to be addressed prior to allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicants' attorney at the telephone number set forth herein below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in this Application to Deposit Account No. 06-1135. In the case of overpayment, please credit the same account.

Respectfully submitted

FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY

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